

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont

TEAM: Commissioner's Office

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education vote to approve appointments to the Education Transformation Policy Commission?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education vote to approve appointments to the Education Transformation Policy Commission.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: T.16 §164 (1) Board powers: "Establish such advisory commissions as in the judgment of the board will be of assistance to it in carrying out its duties. Advisory commission members shall serve with or without compensation at the discretion of the board but shall receive actual expenses incurred in pursuance of their duties."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Education transformation will require a comprehensive review of existing policies and rules in order to systemically drive the process. Combined with a conscious effort to support waiver requests intended to eliminate barriers, a positive policy framework is one of the major tools available to the board. At its November 18, 2008 meeting, the State Board of Education voted to establish the Education Transformation Policy Commission.

COST IMPLICATIONS: Significant staff resources will be required to complete a comprehensive research study and to organize and coordinate commission meetings, progress, and products. Commission members will be reimbursed for expenses.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Deputy Commissioner for Transformation Bill Romond; Kay Charron, Secondary Transformation Program Coordinator; Others as required for research and testimony regarding the impact of assorted existing and proposed policies.

NOTE: Final list of Commission members to be provided on 01/20/09.

Education Transformation Policy Commission

GOAL:

- Recommend a policy framework for advancing education transformation to the State Board of Education that
 - Reflects analysis of the broad spectrum of policy issues impacting education practices and education quality and is based on research
 - Emphasizes high leverage policy areas that could stimulate the greatest advances for systemic change with the fewest mandates
 - Balances support and pressure for school action toward transformation
 - Includes specific language for legislation and/or administrative rules

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP:

- Members are appointed by the State Board
- Does not exceed 12-15 members
- Priority membership to practitioners with focus on student-centered interests
- Draw from the following groups
 - State Board of Education (1)
 - Superintendents (2)
 - Principals (2)
 - Teachers (2)
 - Student (1)
 - Parents, business, and community (3)
 - Higher Education (2)
 - House and Senate Education committees (2)

A variety of education stakeholders could provide input to commission, but would not be members.

STAFFING AND FACILITATION:

- The commission would be staffed and supported by Department of Education staff.
 - Deputy Commissioner and Kay Charron would lead the commission work.
 - Other key DOE staff could support and bring in specialty expertise, as needed.
- Education experts from state and national levels would be engaged as needed.

DRAFT TIMELINE:

- Individual membership recommendations to SBE (December 2008)
- Commission appointed after consultation with newly appointed Commissioner (January 2009)
- Commission conducts bi-weekly meetings (February – May 2009)
- Interim presentation to State Board (April 2009)
- Final written report and presentation to State Board (June 2009)
- State Board finalizes their proposed policy framework (September 2009)
- Department review of existing rules/statutes in relation to draft SBE policy framework to identify changes needed in existing policy (September-November 2009)
- State Board solicits feedback from interested stakeholders (October-November 2009)
- SBE initiates appropriate legislation and administrative rule process (November-December 2009)